

How is a Project Programmed?*

***For More Details on Each Program See Specific Program Information Found on Pages 27-65**

Surface Transportation Program (STP) >200K and <200K

This program provides federal funds to metropolitan areas to use on their federal aid highways. (*Federal-aid highways* include highways on the Federal-aid highway system and all other public roads not classified as local roads or rural minor collectors.)

For STP >200K and <200K funded projects, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) or their consultant or the **sponsoring entity** completes the Stage 0 documentation as outlined in Chapter 6 of the Stage 0 Manual of Standard Practice. The documentation is submitted by the MPO to the DOTD Urban Transportation Planning Engineer within the Transportation Planning Section for review. The documentation is reviewed for completeness, ensuring that funding is available and the MPO's program is fiscally constrained.

If everything is deemed satisfactory, the DOTD Urban Transportation Planning Engineer will approve the Stage 0 documentation, obtain a project number, and send a memorandum to the DOTD >200K or <200K Program Manager indicating the project has been approved for further processing through Stage 1, NEPA process. A copy of the Stage 0 study and/or memorandum is also sent to other appropriate DOTD sections and district.

Any significant changes to the approved project scope or budget must be submitted to the DOTD Urban Transportation Planning Engineer for approval. The DOTD Urban Transportation Planning Engineer reviews the MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to ensure fiscal constraint. If a project on the TIP does not have an approved Stage 0, then the TIP will not be accepted.

Once a construction project is approved and included in the program, the project is managed like a typical DOTD project. It is assigned a project manager and is subject to all standard reviews as described in the Road Design [Plan Preparation Manual](#)

Some projects that use STP >200K or <200K are studies/research and must be included on the TIP. A request is submitted to the Urban Transportation Planning Engineer to use the funds. A scope of services and description of the study must accompany the request. If the MPO has an approved consultant selection procedure they can advertise and select a consultant once DOTD and FHWA have approved the request/scope. If the project is a study, then it will be reviewed and approved by the DOTD Office of Multimodal Planning.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program

This program provides assistance only to parishes in the air quality maintenance or non-attainment areas. DOTD will issue a call for projects from qualified applicants during even numbered years. The State, MPO's, parishes and municipalities in areas that qualify for CMAQ funds can submit applications. All applications will be required to have a Stage 0 document and air quality analysis. Proposed projects and the air quality analysis shall be in conformance with guidance from FHWA.

Applications will be reviewed and chosen by a selection committee. Members of the committee include: the DOTD Transportation Planning Engineer, DOTD Air Quality Engineer, DOTD Road Design Representative, FHWA representative (ex officio), LA Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) representative, and DOTD Public Transit Administrator.

Projects are graded on both their quantitative and qualitative benefits.

Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP)

A "call for applications" is sent to potential **sponsoring entities** and posted on the DOTD website every two years (odd numbered years unless otherwise advertised). The applications will be received by DOTD from June 1st – July 31st of the selection year. The **sponsoring entity** can obtain a copy of the application on the TEP website.

The applications are reviewed for eligibility by the Enhancement Coordination Committee, which is comprised of the following DOTD staff: TEP Manager, TEP Coordinator, Architect, Landscape Architect and FHWA representative. Eligible projects are sent to the respective DOTD District Administrator for selection.

Sponsoring entities are notified in writing of acceptance into the program.

Local Roads Safety Program (LRSP)

The purpose of this program is to reduce deaths and serious injuries on Louisiana's local road system. Program services include:

- Outreach and information sharing
- Technical assistance to local agencies and communities
- Free road safety training
- Funding for low cost safety improvements on locally owned roads.

Projects involving state roads are not eligible under this program.

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The Louisiana Local Road Safety Program utilizes a Review and Selection Committee composed of representatives from local government, DOTD, FHWA, the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission and the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). The Committee recommends a priority ranking of projects to the DOTD Safety Section, which then approves funding of specific projects. Sponsoring entities are notified in writing of acceptance into the program.

Low-cost projects are encouraged. Selection of projects is based on: safety benefits of eligible applications, annual funding level and other criteria. DOTD will select consultants (as necessary) and let the contract as specified in the Entity-State Agreements. The **sponsoring entity** will enter into a contract with the consultant and contractor. Approved project costs will be reimbursed per specifications in the Entity-State Agreement. All purchases must be made according to state contract regulations as specified by the LA Division of Administration.

The application deadline is January 15th each year. The formal application can be found at <http://www.ltrc.lsu.edu/ltap/lrsp.html>

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

Funds are awarded through an application process. Applications are accepted during the months of January and February of each year. The application and guidelines are posted on the DOTD website and can be downloaded at http://www.dotd.la.gov/planning/highway_safety/safe_routes/ Applications are graded and prioritized by the SRTS staff based on their conformance with the goals of the program. The SRTS Advisory Board composed of state officials from various state agencies, reviews the prioritized list and recommends adjustments if needed. The top applications are approved based on funds available.

Sponsoring entities are notified in writing of acceptance into the program.

Off-System Bridge Replacement (OSBR) Program

The matching funds for this program are provided by the Parish Transportation Fund. The purpose of this program is to improve the safety of the traveling public by eliminating deficient parish bridges. Every two years each parish police jury receives a list of deficient bridges in their parish that qualify for this program. This list includes the structure number, the sufficiency rating and an estimated cost for replacement.

In addition to this list they will receive their funding allocation. The funding allocation to each parish is the respective pro rata share of deficient off-system bridges based on deck area.

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With this information, the parish police juries are requested to provide a fiscally constrained prioritized list. The Off-System Bridge Replacement Manager provides a completed Stage 0 study of prioritized bridges to the DOTD Transportation Planning Section for inclusion into the program.

High Priority Project Program (Earmarked Projects)

The purpose of this program is the designation of funds by Congress to specific projects. This program has federal funds designated to a specific project by law. All projects have a **sponsoring entity**. The request to Congress is usually made by an application for a project. The funds are appropriated by Congress. These funds can only be applied to the specific project scope designated by law.

**Transportation, Community and System Preservation
(TCSP) Program***

The purpose of the Transportation, Community, and System Preservation (TCSP) Program is to provide funding for a comprehensive initiative including planning grants, implementation grants and research to investigate and address the relationships between transportation, community, and system preservation and to identify private-sector-based initiatives.

States, metropolitan planning organizations, local governments and tribal governments are eligible recipients (**sponsoring entities**) for TCSP program discretionary funding. This includes towns, cities, public transit agencies, air resources boards, and school boards. Non-governmental organizations that have projects they wish to fund under this program are encouraged to partner with an eligible recipient as the project's **sponsoring entity**.

The types of projects eligible for this discretionary funding include:

- Planning and implementation strategies improving the efficiency of the transportation system
- Reducing the environmental impacts of transportation
- Reducing the need for costly future public infrastructure investments
- Ensuring efficient access to jobs, services and centers of trade
- Examining development patterns and identifying strategies to encourage private sector development patterns which achieve these goals

The **sponsoring entity** should notify DOTD once Congress passes the funding for the project. It is recommended that the **sponsoring entity** notify DOTD when the

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project/funding is designated by law. Once funding is approved by Congress, a federal application providing additional project information is required before the funding can be allocated to Louisiana. The **sponsoring entity** should work with the DOTD to complete this application and provide it to the FHWA Division office for review and approval.

Once approved, funding will be allocated to Louisiana and is available for reimbursement. Every effort should be made to obligate funds during the first year they are allocated for the project.

***Note to the sponsoring entity:** these funds can only be applied to the eligible project specifically designated by law.

National Scenic Byways Program

The Scenic Byway Program promotes tourism to our state's treasured routes. This is a grass-roots program involving public and private partnerships to increase accessibility to Louisiana's unique treasures.

The National Scenic Byways Program is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. The program is a collaborative effort established to recognize, preserve and enhance selected roads throughout the United States. The U.S. Secretary of Transportation recognizes certain roads as All-American Roads or National Scenic Byways based on one or more archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic qualities. Funding is allocated to States and Indian tribes to implement projects. The Secretary of Transportation selects the projects through a national competitive application process. Once the Secretary of Transportation selects a project for funding, the applicant must work with the State byway coordinator, Indian tribe byway coordinator, and/or FHWA division office byway contact to implement the project and to be reimbursed for eligible expenses.

FHWA Recreational Trails Program for Louisiana (FRTPL)

The FRTPL is a state-administered, federal aid program (see CFDA RTP 20.219) funded by the National Recreational Trails Fund Act (NRTFA) of 1991 for the purpose of providing and maintaining recreational trails and trails-related facilities. Funds are awarded annually through an application process. The application form can be downloaded from the [Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism website, http://www.crt.state.la.us/parks/ioutdoorrec.aspx](http://www.crt.state.la.us/parks/ioutdoorrec.aspx). The deadline for applications submitted to the Department of Culture Recreation and Tourism is May 1. Along with a resolution from the **sponsoring entity**, an approval by the Land Manager is required with the applicant's submission. This assures the project has his approval, accessibility to the public for 25 years, and if on federal land, is in compliance with all applicable

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laws. The applications are reviewed by the award committee. Assignment of points is outlined in the application form. Awards are sent out 60-90 days after due date.

Railway-Highway Crossings

The purpose of this program is to increase public safety at railroad crossings. DOTD systematically evaluates the almost 3,000 public highway/rail crossings in Louisiana based on estimated train traffic, vehicular traffic, existing warning and collision history. Input is collected from DOTD Districts, railroads, local governments and citizens. From this a list of potential 'target' crossings is selected and presented to the Railroad Safety Committee for discussion and approval. DOTD welcomes LPA input or the LPA may negotiate with the railroad itself. If you use this program the project must be evaluated with others around the state and the LPA will be responsible for the Advance Warning Signs and Railroad Pavement Markings which may be required on the Parish or municipal roadway approaches to the crossing.

Emergency Relief (ER) Program

This is a cost reimbursable program that assists LPAs with disaster recovery costs. To qualify for ER funds the damages to be corrected must have resulted directly from a declared disaster or catastrophic failure and be necessary for emergency opening, repair, or reconstruction of roadways and facilities on federal functionally classified routes. The total statewide damage for the entire event must exceed \$700,000. Individual sites must have \$5,000 or more in repair costs to be eligible and not be programmed for federal-aid funding. Local governmental agencies and/or Parishes must work with DOTD to coordinate their participation in the ER program.

Public Transportation Programs

The mission of the Public Transportation program is to improve public transit in all areas of the State so that Louisiana's citizens may enjoy an adequate level of personal mobility regardless of geographical location, physical limitation or economic status. Money is allocated through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Depending on the program, the **sponsoring entity** can be the State, local governments, non-profit organizations and local transportation providers. DOTD works with the eligible groups to ensure applications are completed to receive federal funds for operating assistance, capital assistance, and training.

The Public Transportation Programs are grant programs funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Applications for these programs are advertised annually between

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August and September. The applications are due to LA DOTD by February 1st of the following year. The transit agency can obtain a copy of the application on the Public Transportation website. An Annual Public Transportation Conference is conducted to provide training and technical assistance to the transit providers.

The applications are reviewed for eligibility by the Application Committee comprised of the following state agencies and LADOTD staff: Public Transportation Administrator, Public Transportation Assistant Administrator, DOTD Intermodal Transportation Program Managers, Department of Health and Hospitals, Department of Social Services, Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs, and the Governor's Office of Disabilities Affairs. Eligible projects are submitted to FTA for approval.

Transit agencies are notified in writing of acceptance into the program.

**Airport Construction and Development Priority Program
(Aviation Priority Program)**

The purpose of the Airport Construction and Development Priority Program is to improve Aviation safety throughout the state; and to facilitate with the Federal Aviation Administration and Airport Sponsors for the planning, development, and implementation of airport projects that will continue to improve the state's Aviation infrastructure to insure a safe, modern, and well managed system of airports. The Aviation Section Staff currently registers airports and provides counsel to Airport Sponsors, Legislators, Commissioners, Managers, Consultants, Engineers, Pilots, and Finance Officers regarding multiple aviation issues.

A "call for applications" is sent to airport sponsors in August of each year. The applications will be received by DOTD no later than November 1st of each year. The sponsor can obtain a copy of the application on the Aviation Section website.

The applications are reviewed for eligibility by the Aviation Section Program Managers. Eligible projects are scored and compete for funding against other projects and finally prioritized by the following DOTD Aviation staff: Aviation Director, Assistant Aviation Director, Aviation Program Managers, and Aviation Safety and Compliance Inspectors.

The draft priority program is coordinated with the airport managers and **sponsoring entities** prior to the Joint Transportation Committee public hearing.

Louisiana Statewide Flood Control Program

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The purpose of the Statewide Flood Control Program is to help solve flood problems through an active, innovative approach that provides long-term solutions to flood problems and protects existing developments without encouraging further development. The Statewide Flood Control Program is governed by LA Revised Statute 38:90 et seq and the projects are funded through the State Transportation Trust Fund.

Applications into the Statewide Flood Control Program can be submitted by Parish Governments, Municipal Governments, Levee Boards, and Drainage Districts. The Program requires a pre-application be submitted by the 1st of May and once approved; a complete application can be submitted no later than the 1st of October for consideration of funding or funding obligation authority in the following fiscal years. The application is a detailed feasibility study that justifies the need for the project, determines benefited areas, provides a detailed cost estimate, calculates program benefits, etc.

The applications are reviewed and evaluated by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. Applications shall also be reviewed by any appropriate state agencies. Only applications which are complete as determined by the Department shall be reviewed and evaluated.

Sponsoring Entities are notified in writing of any comments concerning their application and provided an opportunity to address the concerns. Once all applications and any additional comments are reviewed, the **Sponsoring Entities** are notified if their proposed project will be recommended for funding.

Louisiana Port Construction and Development Priority Program

The purpose of the Louisiana Port Construction and Development Priority Program is to insure that adequate landside facilities are available to meet a definite market need by providing guidance and public funds to build landside infrastructure; thereby, providing jobs and competitive transportation cost to move cargo, minimizing highway congestion, improving safety and reducing maintenance cost on our highways. The Louisiana Port Construction and Development Priority Program is governed by LA Revised Statute 34:3451 et seq and the projects are funded through the State Transportation Trust Fund.

Any Louisiana public port authority may submit an application for funding. Applications may be submitted on a quarterly basis no later than the 1st of March, June, September and December of each calendar year for consideration of funding or funding obligation authority in the following fiscal years.

The applications are reviewed and evaluated by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. Applications shall also be reviewed by any

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appropriate state agencies. Only applications which are complete as determined by the Department shall be reviewed and evaluated.

Sponsoring Entities are notified in writing of any comments concerning their application and provided an opportunity to address the concerns. Once all applications and any additional comments are reviewed, the **Sponsoring Entities** are notified if their proposed project will be recommended for funding.

Marine Transportation System Program (MTS)

These are U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' projects undertaken by the Corps itself or by a consultant following Corps guidelines. These navigation projects require a non-federal sponsor.

A request is made by the LPA to DOTD to assist with funding and to be the non-federal sponsor of navigation projects (studies through construction). Usually a channel deepening request to the Corps is made by a port or local government. If the project is too large for a port or community to handle or part of the project falls outside the jurisdiction of the port or community, a request is made by letter to the DOTD. If DOTD concurs with the request, DOTD will submit a Capital Outlay request for the necessary cost share funds. (Transportation Trust Funds are not used for navigation projects.)

DOTD will fund the project through construction, but the port or community must agree to provide the lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, disposal areas and maintain any mitigation sites. DOTD is not responsible for any maintenance

Rail Infrastructure Improvement Program

NOTE: This is NOT YET an approved or funded program. This proposed program would provide financial assistance to railroads to make infrastructure improvements to enhance public safety or provide economic benefits to the state or local communities. While not yet a stand-alone program, state funds have been used for rail planning.

Once established, applications will be accepted by DOTD not later than September 30 of each year. The application will include project information as well as safety and economic benefit information. Each project application is evaluated and scored based on benefits to the public. A prioritized list of projects is prepared and approved by the Louisiana Legislature's Joint Committee on Transportation. The highest priority projects will then received assistance from DOTD. **NOTE:** The program and its procedures have presently not been approved by the Louisiana Legislature and program funding has not been identified.